

GENTENNIAL OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Plan to Celebrate It One Year Hence.

JEFFERSON A TRUSTEE

First Buildings Had Four Teachers and Were for the Education of the Poor.

One hundred years ago next December Congress, recognizing the imperative need for free education, made provision for two school houses in the District, to be conducted and maintained by the Government. The staff of teachers employed in these institutions did not exceed four. The schools were attended by the poorest children. They were commonly known as "pauper schools."

But in that lapse of time a marvelous change has been wrought. Today the District owns 127 public school buildings; 1,371 teachers are employed; the schools have been organized into a great system of instruction, and they are attended by the children of the wealthy, as well as the children of the poor. The son of the President is in one of the public schools.

Centennial Suggested.
In recognition of these great strides of progress Prof. A. T. Stuart, superintendent of public instruction in the District, has suggested to the Board of Education that it would be appropriate to celebrate the centennial of the founding of the free school system in the District. The proposition is now under consideration, and it is probable that definite plans will be made to hold such a celebration.

In proposing the celebration, Prof. Stuart did not suggest a fitting manner of commemorating the passing of the century mark. It is probable, however, the anniversary will be celebrated with special exercises in all the schools and by a public meeting. The annual report for 1904-5 will be compiled in the form of a historical resume of the various stages in the advancement of free education.

The bill authorizing erection of the first schools was passed December 5, 1804. The measure provided that one school house be built within one-half mile of the White House and the other within one-half mile east of the Capitol. The buildings were to be one story in height.

The First Trustees.

The first meeting of the board of trustees, now known as the Board of Education, met August 5, 1805. Thomas Jefferson, then President of the United States, was elected president of the board. The enterprise so pleased President Jefferson that he contributed \$200 toward the maintenance of the two school houses.

Two other distinguished members of the board were Robert Brent, first mayor of Washington, and Judge William Cranch. Two schools erected in the District since then have been named after these men.

The two pioneer schools were established to instruct children whose parents were unable to pay for their education. They amounted to nothing more than charity schools, and, as said before, became known as "schools for paupers." The early progress of the free school system was not rapid. Time was required to interest people in the undertaking, and to prove that it was successful. School houses were not erected with regularity, and the interest was purely desultory.

The Wallach School.

As years advanced and the benefits of the public school system became more apparent, Congress made better provisions for the free pupils. But it was not until 1864 that attention was directed to proper style of building to meet the requirements. In that year the Wallach School, as modern as science at that time could make it, was erected, and proved to be the beginning of a new stage of advancement.

Four years later the Franklin School was built. Others have followed with a measure of rapidity, until the system of public education in the District compares favorably with that of other cities.

C. F. OSTERMAN MUST LEAVE POLICE FORCE

Commissioner West today approved the recommendation made by Major Sylvester that Private C. F. Osterman, of the Police Department, be removed from the force. This is the final chapter in a notorious case, Osterman having been found guilty last summer by the trial board of being a "Peeping Tom."

Friends of the policeman came to his rescue and the Commissioners were advised that much additional testimony could be obtained to justify the action of Osterman. In view of this the Commissioners returned the papers to the trial board for review and the consideration of additional testimony. The trial board refused to change its verdict, however, and recommended that its original finding be maintained. In this both Major Sylvester and Commissioner West have concurred.

CRANFORD PAVING CO. SUED FOR DAMAGES

Harry J. Senay has instituted suit through Lambert & Baker for \$10,000, as damages, against the Cranford Paving Company.

It is set forth in the declaration that the defendant is doing business in the District of Columbia, and in its business of laying asphalt and cement streets and walks, it uses a number of steam rollers. On May 21, 1902, while the plaintiff was driving a team of horses on Florida Avenue, between Second and Third Streets northeast, and was, he says, in the act of passing one of the defendant's steam rollers, the engine started, causing his horses to take fright, thus bringing the vehicle in collision with a tree and throwing him violently to the ground. He says he was severely injured in his hip and shoulder, and was mentally and physically made unable to engage in his usual business.

DR. McKIM'S LECTURES.

The Rev. Dr. McKim, rector of the Church of the Epiphany, has planned a series of Bible lectures, to be given on Monday evenings in the parish house of the church. These lectures are open to the public.

THE DISTRICT WASHING CAUSES COMPLAINTS

Laundry Man Must Do Work Properly or Pay Bills for Having It Done Elsewhere.

The District government is having trouble with its laundry man, and Commissioner West yesterday approved a recommendation of Deputy Property Clerk Hargrove, that "a repetition of such work as complained of will result in the laundering being done elsewhere," at the expense of the present contractor.

Early last summer The Times exposed the system of letting laundry contracts for the police and other departments under the District government. The District was paying two and three times the prices charged other private and public corporations. Consequently, bids were called for by the Commissioners, and all District laundry was given to the lowest bidder, the Harvard Laundry Company.

Recently Major Sylvester appeared in the office of Commissioner West with a pillow case which was open to criticism from the standpoint of cleanliness. The major was disgusted, and so informed the Commissioner. As a result specific complaint was called for, and Police Lieutenants Boyle and Jordan responded. Lieutenant Jordan says:

"I have the honor to report that the washing of linen at this station now being done by the Harvard Laundry is unsatisfactory. Our pillows, sheets, etc., are returned with no evidence of having been washed at all. The clothing is oil stained and dirty, bearing evidence of recent use. The linen is in even a worse condition than that submitted by Lieutenant Boyle."

WEARIED IN JAIL.

LANCASTER, Pa., Dec. 12.—Aaron R. Shirk, who was confined in the county jail for 60 days for contempt of court, was released yesterday, and will be formally discharged by the court next week. He refused to account for a \$500 assignment, and was committed to jail. Tired of incarceration, he has settled the claims.

NEW FLYING MACHINE AT WAR DEPARTMENT

Its Inventor Believes Rotary Motion Alone Can Solve Aerial Navigation Problem.

Louis Gathmann, the inventor of the latest flying machine model submitted to the War Department, insists that the efforts to imitate the flight of birds in aerodromes is useless, as machines built on this plan would be worthless commercially, even if they were capable of flying.

Mr. Gathmann's new machine embodies the principle used in the toy little boys call the butterfly, which consists of a tin wheel, something like the wheel of a windmill, and is sent into the air by rapidly unwinding a string fastened about a propelling rod.

Rotary motion, in Mr. Gathmann's opinion, is the only motion which is applicable to aerial navigation. By means of large propeller wheels moving in opposite directions Mr. Gathmann says the air can be rarified sufficiently to force the machine up at a good rate of speed, and by an adjustment of the center of gravity the vertical motion can be changed to horizontal motion.

Beneath the wheels in Mr. Gathmann's machine the car containing the steering apparatus is placed. A machine capable of carrying one man should weigh only 75 pounds and should be capable of carrying two 20-horsepower engines. It is estimated that a machine weighing 10,000 pounds would have a lifting power of 45,000 pounds and would cost about \$50,000.

CHRISTMAS WINE LIST.

For the convenience of his patrons during the holiday season, Edward J. Quinn, 604 Pennsylvania Avenue northwest, has compiled a very complete and tasty wine list, giving the various brands of wines in general use and the lowest cost price for the same. Mr. Quinn is sole distributor for the famous Oronoco wines and whiskeys, and has built up a very extensive patronage on the merits of his outputs. The list will be cheerfully sent to all upon request.

NAVAL CAPTAIN SUED FOR ALLEGED ASSAULT

Fireman Morgan Josephs Thinks He Was Ill-Used by Joseph E. Craig on Board the Albany.

Morgan Josephs, a fireman in the United States Navy, has filed suit in the District Supreme Court against Capt. Joseph Edgar Craig, to recover \$25,000 as damages for alleged assault and false imprisonment. He says that during his term of service he was imprisoned in irons at different times for periods aggregating 955 days.

Josephs explains that he enlisted as a first-class fireman in the United States Navy, January 2, 1900, for a term of four years. On February 23, 1900, he says he was ordered aboard the United States steamship Albany, then at Ellsworth, on the River Tyne, England. He says he also served on other vessels, at other places, under command of Joseph Edgar Craig.

About a year after he enlisted, Josephs says his vessel was lying off near Hongkong, China, and at that time he was put in double irons by Joseph Edgar Craig, and imprisoned from January 18, 1901, to February 21, 1901. Three days after he was released he was again placed in prison aboard ship, and kept confined until April 27, 1901. At that time the Albany was near Cavite, P. I. He also says he served on the Dixie, the Priscilla, and on a tugboat, the name of which he does not know.

During his terms of imprisonment, Josephs says, he was confined in filthy, some and filthy prisons, and was served with unwholesome and insufficient food. Hamilton & Colbert are named as counsel for the plaintiff.

Frank P. Hall has also instituted suit against Theodore M. Ruddy, to recover \$25,000 for alleged malicious slander and defamation of character. Washington, Heald & Frailey are named as counsel for the plaintiff.

NEW BRANCH STATION.

An order has been issued by the Post-office Department establishing branch station No. 52, at 509 E Street northwest. Alexander H. Galt has been appointed clerk in charge of the office.

MANY DEATHS IN PANAMA FROM THREE CAUSES

Yellow Fever, Beri-Beri, and Dysentery Responsible for Greatest Mortality on the Isthmus.

In the report of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, made public yesterday, a report of Consul General Gudgeon made to Surgeon General Wyman, through the State Department, contains detailed statistics on the deaths in the city of Panama in 1902, 1903, and 1904. From the report, it appears the deaths from yellow fever, beri-beri and dysentery have been numerous.

In 1902, the total deaths at Panama were 1,204, of which 11 were from yellow fever, 38 from beri-beri, and 75 from dysentery. In 1903 the deaths reached 2,373, of which 182 were from yellow fever, 52 from beri-beri, and 290 from dysentery. In 1904 the deaths so far reported are 1,144, of which 48 have been from yellow fever, 31 from beri-beri, and 110 from dysentery.

In explanation of the high death rate, it is said the internal war is responsible, as many soldiers sent from high altitudes have died. Many smallpox deaths are reported.

The yellow fever at Laredo has subsided. The last death reported was on December 7, and the last case December 7.

Scarlatina in epidemic form exists at Havana. The schools have nearly all closed, and there have been several deaths.

CARS LIKE FLATS FOR WESTERN ROAD

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—The entire Great Western system will be equipped next week with combination cafe, parlor, and observation cars, embodying all the characteristics of an up-to-date four-room flat.

In regular order will be found a library and smoking room, a parlor, a dining room, and a kitchen. For those who do not care for the "home" car there is a "club" car, which has all the appointments of the average club.

WASHINGTONIAN SAVED LIFE OF DAVENPORT

How Actor, Threatened by Colonel Overhall, of New Orleans, Obed Escaped From Death to Friend's Devotion.

The death of Col. Edwin Elias Overhall in New Orleans, La., recently served to refreshen the memories of several of his intimate acquaintances who recall vividly some of the stormy incidents in his career.

One of the most exciting occurrences in Colonel Overhall's life took place in New Orleans before the civil war, when the noted actor Dolly Davenport was playing an engagement in the old variety theater in the Louisiana metropolis, and came within a hair's breadth of meeting death and incidentally causing the death of a man, now a long time and well-known resident of Washington, who was a mutual friend of the thespian and the soldier.

It appears that Colonel Overhall and Davenport had a disagreement some years prior to the date referred to, and time served to aggravate rather than heal the wound. Matters grew worse and worse, and finally Colonel Overhall announced his intention of killing Davenport on sight. This threat, the colonel's friends say, was meant to be carried out to the letter, because they had long since realized that his word was as good as his bond. Friends of both parties endeavored to patch up the difference between them, but their efforts were futile, and finally Davenport was apprised of the fact that his life was in danger. He disregarded these warnings and made light of them at every mention.

On the night in question Davenport went to the Sullivan saloon on St. Charles Street, in the vicinity of the house in which he was playing, and Colonel Overhall learned of his presence there. Armed with his revolver, the soldier started for the resort. The mutual friend of the two arrived first, and informed the unarmed Davenport of the colonel's intentions. Davenport ordered another drink and replied "Let him come."

Colonel Overhall entered the saloon and "took a bracer" at one end of the bar. Davenport was sitting from his glass at the other. After finishing his glass Colonel Overhall reached in his hip-pocket, drew out his pistol and walked deliberately to the other end of the bar, where Davenport was standing. Just as he leveled the weapon at Davenport's breast the mutual friend stepped between them. Colonel Overhall tried to shove the peace-maker aside, but the latter hung on grimly and said:

"If you must shoot, go ahead, but you'll have to send a bullet through my breast before it can reach Davenport."

This had the desired effect upon Overhall. He replaced his weapon in his pocket and departed from the resort in silence. This ended matters for that night, but subsequently Overhall and Davenport adjusted their own difficulty without the intervention of anyone. Davenport always averred that he owed his life to the friend who is now residing in Washington.

Colonel Overhall killed a druggist named Graham, of New Orleans, in 1859, because of some unknown animosity existing between them. The soldier never paid a penalty for this deed, which endeavor to indicate that he was justified. Although Colonel Overhall had little regard for human life, he was loved by thousands for his bravery and chivalry.

NEW PAPER CORPORATION.

The Smith-Powell Paper Company have opened new and spacious offices at 1209 Pennsylvania Avenue, and are exhibiting a magnificent line of fine stationery, art calendars, rare and curious novelties, ink wells, fountain pens, in fact, everything useful and ornamental for the writing desk or library. Mr. J. George Smith is president and general manager, and Mr. J. B. Powell serves as secretary and treasurer.

Castelberg's---Washington's Leading Jewelers---935 Penna. Ave.

Phenomenal Xmas Selling.

The Castelberg Store Is Establishing More Records For Great Selling.

It's easy to be busy if you have the goods to be busy with. The Castelberg Christmas stock has reached a size absolutely unparalleled. Everything of merit everyone shows we show—and a great deal more besides. The stock attracts—the prices attract. Castelberg prices today mean more to people who know how to buy right than they ever did. The man who buys Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, Silverware, etc., without seeing and pricing the goods here convicts himself of not looking out for his best advantage.

---Never opened such a vast number of new accounts in so short a time as we have since December 1st. The Christmas rush is on here---started early here and is growing greater every day.

Save 25% more by buying at Castelberg's---and open a charge account.

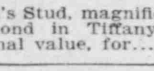
All Engraving Free. Goods reserved.



Ring, \$10.
Gold Ring, set with three full cut Diamonds, as a special Xmas offer.....\$10.00



Stud, \$70.
Gentlemen's Stud, magnificent blue-white diamond in Tiffany setting; an exceptional value, for.....\$70.00



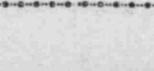
Ring, \$60.
Genuine Turquoise Center Stone, surrounded by fine full-cut Diamonds. Very special at \$60.



Brooch \$8.
Very neat Gold Brooch, in the popular twisted pattern. During the holidays.....\$8.00



Stick Pin, \$4.
A Neat Solid Gold Scarf Pin, with Diamond center. Special Xmas price.....\$4.00



Ring, \$16.
Ladies' Dainty Gold Ring, with Sapphire center, surrounded with perfectly matched Diamonds. Special.....\$16.00



Ring, \$10.
14-karat Gold Ring, set with Diamond, Ruby and Sapphire. Special.....\$10.00

Ring, \$6.
One of those fashionable Cluster Rings, with center stone of turquoise, surrounded with pearls. Special price.....\$6.00

Ring, \$15.
Gold Ring, set with full-cut Diamond, at.....\$15.00

Ring, \$25.
Handsome Solid Gold Ring, set with an exquisite first-water Diamond. Special during the holidays.....\$25.00

Rings, \$3 to \$10.
Extra Heavy Wedding Rings, 14-karat gold, from.....\$3.00 to \$10.00

Ring, \$18.
Lady's Magnificent Gold Ring, center stone of Turquoise, Sapphire or Ruby, surrounded with full-cut diamonds. Special holiday price.....\$18.00

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